GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6255
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2002
CHILD HEALTH CARE PROGRAMMES
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the children upto the age of five years belonging to poor families are deficient of iron, pholic acid and zinc with the result they do not develop fully;

(b) if so, whether the Government have carried out any survey in this respect;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the amount spent during the Ninth Five Year Plan on this account and the reasons for not reaching this benefit to undernourished children?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (d) : Aneamia due to Iron deficiency is the most wide spread micronutrient deficiency disease. As per the National Family Health Survey (98-99), 74.3% of children in the age group 6-35 months were found to have varying degrees of anemia. These include 23% children with mild aneamia, 46% with moderate and 5% with severe aneamia. Prevalence of anemia was observed to be high in children from rural areas, children of illiterate mothers and children whose mothers are severely aneamia Evidence suggests that children in the age group 1-5 years were 20% deficient in RBC folate levels. The extent of zinc deficiency in the population has not been precisely quantified.

Under the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme,iron and folic acid tablets are provided for prevention and treatment of anemia to pregnant women and young children. In addition, exclusive breast feeding and appropriate complementary feeding practices are promoted to improve the nutritional status of children. Expenditure on the Programmes inclusive of expenditure for provision for the above mentioned services during the years 1997-98 to 2001-02 is given in the table below :-

Year	Programme	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in Crore)
1997-98	CSSM $	296.50
	RCH	148.50
1998-99	RCH	542.02
1999-00	RCH	688.55
2000-01	RCH	820.73
2001-02	RCH	945.68

\+ Amount allocated
$ Child Survival and Safe Motherhood.